

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1008

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IN, BG, GW, UN, IS

SUBJECT: CHAVAN - GENSHER AUGUST 22 DISCUSSIONS IN FRANKFURT

1. LAST WEEK FRG FIRST SECRETARY RAU JDR EMBOFF MET TO DISCUSS DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION IN INDIA AT RAU'S REQUEST. DURING MEETING, EMBOFF INQUIRED ABOUT AUGUST 22 CHAVAN-GENSHER MEETING IN FRANKFURT. RAU COMMENTED THAT FRG EMBASSY YET TO RECEIVE REPORT ON MEETING BUT PROMISED TO GET IN TOUCH LATER. ON SEPTEMBER 3, RAU PHONED TO INVITE EMBOFF TO REVIEW WITH HIM CABLED REPORT WHICH HAD JUST ARRIVED FROM BONN. FOLLOWING ARE THE NOTES TAKEN FROM RAU'S ORAL TRANSLATION OF CABLE.

2. WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER: CHAVAN STATED VERY STRONGLY THAT INDIA'S POLITICAL PROBLEMS ARE HER ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. IN EFFECT, IF IT CANNOT SOLVE THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, IT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SOLVE THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS. IN RELATION TO THE THIRD WORLD, ONE OF INDIA'S MAIN OBJECTIVES IS TO WORK FOR SOLIDARITY AMONG THE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS.

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3. FRG FOREIGN MINISTER REPLIED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS INTERESTED IN EFFECTING CHANGES IN THE WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER THAT WILL BENEFIT ALL. WITH THIS IN MIND HE INTENDED TO OFFER SOME CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS DURING THE UPCOMING UN SESSION. HE AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE SOME ADJUSTMENTS IN THE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND UNDERDEVELOPED NATIONS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE ONLY SOLUTION CAN BE THROUGH "MUTUAL" AND MULTILATERAL DISCUSSIONS.

4. CHAVAN RESPONDED THAT HE SUPPORTS SUCH DISCUSSION. INDIA PROVED ITS WILLINGNESS TO PURSUE THIS APPROACH WHEN IT ACCEPTED THE FRENCH INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PRODUCER-CONSUMER MATERIALS CONFERENCE. THERE WERE BASICALLY NO DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE INDIAN AND FRG VIEWS ON THE NEED TO ADJUST THE WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER.

5. MIDDLE EAST: THE FRG FOREIGN MINISTER STATED THAT GIVEN THE DELICATE STAGE OF DR. KISSINGER'S NEGOTIATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, NOW WAS NOT THE TIME FOR OUTSIDE PRESSURES IN THE FORM OF RADICAL RESOLUTIONS FROM THE NON-ALIGNED IN LIMA OR NEW YORK. THIS WOULD HAVE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON DR. KISSINGER'S VISIT AND EFFORTS TO FIND A SOLUTION. EXTREMIST FORCES IN ISRAEL WHO ARE AGAINST AN AGREEMENT WILL GAIN MORE MOMENTUM IF SUCH OUTSIDE FORCES ARE BROUGHT TO BEAR. THE ARABS DO NOT SEEM TO APPRECIATE THAT IN ISRAEL "THERE ARE EXTREME FORCES THAT HAVE TO BE CHECKED." CHAVAN APPARENTLY AGREED "UKBOL FD LARGE" WITH THIS REPRESENTATION, BUT MADE IT PLAIN THAT INDIA IS ON THE SIDE OF THE ARABS "BECAUSE JUSTICE IS ON THEIR SIDE."

6. BILATERAL ISSUES: CHAVAN EXPRESSED INDIA'S APPRECIATION FOR FRG ASSISTANCE. THE FRG AMBASSADOR TO DELHI, ALSO PRESENT AT THE MEETING, POINTED OUT TO CHAVAN THAT THE GOI'S STRICTURES ON FOREIGN NEWSPAPERMEN WERE TACTICALLY WRONG FOR THEY INVITE REPORTING UNFAVORABLE TO INDIA. THE TWO MINISTERS AGREED TO PASS THE PROBLEM OF GERMAN CORRESPONDENTS IN INDIA BACK TO DELHI FOR DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE FRG EMBASSY AND CONCERNED GOI MINISTRIES. (NOTE: RAU STATED THAT HIS CHARGE' HAS SINCE SUCCEEDED IN REVERSING EXPLUSION ORDERS ON TWO GERMAN CORRESPONDENTS, PROVIDED THEY WRITE LETTERS OF "APOLOGY." ONE CORRESPONDENT WROTE A LET-CONFIDENTIAL

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TER THAT WAS ACCEPTED BY MEA, THOUGH IT SKIRTED AN APOLOGY. RAU STATED THAT MEA IS UNDERSTANDABLY TAKING A SOFT LINE ON CENSORSHIP PENALTIES; THE INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING MINISTRY IS TAKING A HARD LINE.

7. BANGLADESH: CHAVAN STATED THAT INDIA WILL COOPERATE WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN DACCA. HE STRONGLY DENIED REPORTS THAT THE INDIAN MILITARY WAS CONCENTRATING ON THE BANGLADESH BORDER.

8. RAU STATED THAT DURING AN EXCHANGE OF TOASTS WITH HIS GERMAN COUNTERPART, CHAVAN ONCE AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT INDIA'S POLITICAL STABILITY WILL LARGELY DEPEND ON ECONOMIC STABILITY IN THE FUTURE.

9. SETTING ASIDE THE CABLE, RAU EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL SURPRISE THAT CHAVAN HAD NOT RAISED THE ISSUE OF SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP. HE REMARKED THAT THE GOI HAD PRESSED HARD FOR GERMAN SUPPORT FOR INDIAN MEMBERSHIP BEFORE CHAVAN'S FRANKFURT STOPOVER. SAXBE

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